

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices and a supporting frame coupled to an image display member to form an image display apparatus are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; [[and]]

[[an]] a first insulating film containing a metal oxide provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate; and

a second insulating film provided on said first insulating film so as to cover said metal oxide,

wherein said second insulating film ~~containing metal oxide~~ has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said supporting frame is to be disposed.

6. (Currently Amended) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices and a supporting frame coupled to an image display member to form an image display apparatus are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; [[and]]

a first SiO₂ film containing a metal oxide provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate; and
a second SiO₂ film provided on said first SiO₂ film so as to cover said metal oxide,

wherein said second SiO₂ film ~~containing metal oxide~~ has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said supporting frame is to be disposed.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A precursor according to ~~any one of Claims 5-7,~~ Claim 5 or 6, wherein the metal oxide is particulate.

9. (Currently Amended) A precursor according to ~~any one of Claims 5-7,~~ Claim 5 or 6, wherein the metal oxide is electron-conductive.

10. (Currently Amended) A precursor according to ~~any one of Claims 5-7,~~ Claim 5 or 6, wherein the metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Cu, Pd, Ir, In, Sn, Sb and Re.

11. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices and a getter film are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

- a substrate; and
- an antistatic film provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said antistatic film has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said getter film is to be disposed.

12. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices and a getter film are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

- a substrate; and
- a sodium blocking film provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said sodium blocking film has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said getter film is to be disposed.

13. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices and a getter film are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; and

an insulating film containing a metal oxide provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said insulating film containing metal oxide has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said getter film is to be disposed.

14. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices and a getter film are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; and

a SiO₂ film containing a metal oxide provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said SiO₂ film containing metal oxide has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said getter film is to be disposed.

15. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to Claim 14, further comprising another film including SiO₂ laminated on said SiO₂ film.

16. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to any one of Claims 13 – 15, wherein the metal oxide is electron-conductive.

17. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to any one of Claims 13 – 15, wherein the metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Cu, Pd, Ir, In, Sn, Sb and Re.

18. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices, a getter film and a supporting frame coupled to an image display member to form an image display apparatus are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; and

an antistatic film provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said antistatic film has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said supporting frame and the getter film are to be disposed.

19. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to Claim 18, wherein said antistatic film contains conductive particles.

20. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices, a getter film and a supporting frame coupled to an image display member to form an image display apparatus are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; and

a sodium blocking film provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said sodium blocking film has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said supporting frame and the getter film are to be disposed.

21. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to Claim 20, wherein said sodium blocking film contains sodium blocking particles.

22. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices, a getter film and a supporting frame coupled to an image display member to form an image display apparatus are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; and

an insulating film containing a metal oxide provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said insulating film containing metal oxide has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said supporting frame and the getter film are to be disposed.

23. (Previously Presented) A precursor to an electron source, said precursor being one on which electron emitting devices, a getter film and a supporting frame coupled to an image display member to form an image display apparatus are to be disposed, said precursor comprising:

a substrate; and

a SiO₂ film containing a metal oxide provided on a surface of said substrate in an area except for a partial surface area of said substrate,

wherein said SiO₂ film containing metal oxide has a surface on which said electron emitting devices are to be disposed, and said partial surface area is an area in which said supporting frame and the getter film are to be disposed.

24. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to Claim 23, further comprising another film including SiO₂ disposed on said SiO₂ film.

25. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to any one of Claims 22 – 24, wherein the metal oxide is particulate.

26. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to any one of Claims 22 – 24, wherein the metal oxide is electron-conductive.

27. (Previously Presented) A precursor according to any one of Claims 22 – 24, wherein the metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Cu, Pd, Ir, In, Sn, Sb and Re.

28. (Currently Amended) An electron source comprising:
a precursor according to any one of Claims [[1 – 7,]] 5, 6, 11 – 15, and 18 – 24; and
electron emitting devices disposed on said precursor.

29. (Previously Presented) An electron source according to Claim 28, wherein each of said electron emitting devices includes a conductive film including an electron emitting portion.

30. (Previously Presented) An electron source according to Claim 28, wherein at least some of the electron emitting devices are wired in a matrix configuration through a plurality of row-direction wires and a plurality of column-direction wires.

31. (Currently Amended) An image display device, comprising:
an electron source, comprising
a precursor according to any one of Claims [[1 – 7,] 5, 6, 11 – 15, and 18 – 24, and
electron emitting devices disposed on said precursor; and
an image display member for displaying an image in response to being irradiated by electrons emitted from said electron emitting devices.

32. (Previously Presented) An image display device according to Claim 31, further comprising a supporting member coupling said electron source to said image display member.

33. (Previously Presented) An image display device according to Claim 31, wherein each of said electron emitting devices includes a conductive film having an electron emitting portion.

34. (Previously Presented) An image display device according to Claim 31, wherein at least some of the electron emitting devices are wired in a matrix configuration through a plurality of row-direction wires and a plurality of column-direction wires.